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41. (New) An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,
 - b) a polypeptide comprising a naturally occurring amino acid sequence at least 85% identical to an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,
 - c) a biologically active fragment of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and
 - d) an immunogenic fragment of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

42. (New) An isolated polypeptide of claim 41 comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

43. (New) A method of producing a polypeptide of claim 41, the method comprising:

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- a) culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein said cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and said recombinant polynucleotide comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 41, and
 - b) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.

44. (New) A method of claim 43, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

45. (New) A composition comprising a polypeptide of claim 41 and a physiologically acceptable excipient.

46. (New) A composition of claim 45, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

47. (New) A method of screening a compound for effectiveness as an agonist of a polypeptide

of claim 41, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 41 to a compound, and
- b) detecting agonist activity in the sample.

48. (New) A method of screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 41, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 41 to a compound, and
- b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample.

49. (New) A method of screening for a compound that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 41, the method comprising:

- a) combining the polypeptide of claim 41 with at least one test compound under suitable conditions, and
- b) detecting binding of the polypeptide of claim 41 to the test compound, thereby identifying a compound that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 41.

50. (New) A method of screening for a compound that modulates the activity of the polypeptide of claim 41, the method comprising:

- a) combining the polypeptide of claim 41 with at least one test compound under conditions permissive for the activity of the polypeptide of claim 41,
- b) assessing the activity of the polypeptide of claim 41 in the presence of the test compound, and
- c) comparing the activity of the polypeptide of claim 41 in the presence of the test compound with the activity of the polypeptide of claim 41 in the absence of the test compound, wherein a change in the activity of the polypeptide of claim 41 in the presence of the test compound is indicative of a compound that modulates the activity of the polypeptide of claim 41.

51. (New) An isolated antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 41.

52. (New) The antibody of claim 51, wherein the antibody is:

- a) a chimeric antibody,
- b) a single chain antibody,
- c) a Fab fragment,
- d) a F(ab')₂ fragment, or
- e) a humanized antibody.

53. (New) A composition comprising an antibody of claim 51 and an acceptable excipient.

54. (New) A composition of claim 53, wherein the antibody is labeled.

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55. (New) A method of preparing a polyclonal antibody with the specificity of the antibody of claim 51, the method comprising:

- a) immunizing an animal with a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or an immunogenic fragment thereof, under conditions to elicit an antibody response,
- b) isolating antibodies from said animal, and
- c) screening the isolated antibodies with the polypeptide, thereby identifying a polyclonal antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

56. (New) A polyclonal antibody produced by a method of claim 55.

57. (New) A method of making a monoclonal antibody with the specificity of the antibody of claim 51, the method comprising:

- a) immunizing an animal with a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or an immunogenic fragment thereof, under conditions to elicit an antibody response,
- b) isolating antibody producing cells from the animal,

- c) fusing the antibody producing cells with immortalized cells to form monoclonal antibody-producing hybridoma cells,
- d) culturing the hybridoma cells, and
- e) isolating from the culture monoclonal antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

58. (New) A monoclonal antibody produced by a method of claim 57.

59. (New) A method of detecting a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 in a sample, the method comprising:

- a) incubating the antibody of claim 51 with a sample under conditions to allow specific binding of the antibody and the polypeptide, and
- b) detecting specific binding, wherein specific binding indicates the presence of a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 in the sample.

60. (New) A method of purifying a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 from a sample, the method comprising:

- a) incubating the antibody of claim 51 with a sample under conditions to allow specific binding of the antibody and the polypeptide, and
- b) separating the antibody from the sample and obtaining the purified polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

61. (New) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 41.

62. (New) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 42.

63. (New) An isolated polynucleotide of claim 62 comprising a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

64. (New) A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide of claim 61.

65. (New) A cell transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 64.

66. (New) An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,
- b) a polynucleotide comprising a naturally occurring polynucleotide sequence at least 90% identical to a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,
- c) a polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide of a),
- d) a polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide of b), and
- e) an RNA equivalent of a)-d).